

COUNCIL WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 23, 2016

The work session of the Council of the Town of Altavista was held in the Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street, on February 23, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Council members  
present:

Mayor Michael Mattox  
Mrs. Micki Brumfield  
Mrs. Beverley Dalton  
Mr. Tracy Emerson  
Mr. Timothy George  
Mr. Jay Higginbotham

Council members  
absent:

Mr. Charles Edwards

Also present:

Mr. J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Town Manager  
Mr. Daniel Witt, Assistant Town Manager  
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance Director  
Mr. Dennis Jarvis, Economic Dev. Director  
Mr. Steve Bond, Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Mr. John Eller, Town Attorney  
Mrs. Mary Hall, Administration

1. Mayor Mattox called the meeting to order and presided.
2. Mayor Mattox advised of an amendment to the agenda—Reserve Weekend Truck Policy
3. A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. George, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverly Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

4. Public Comments—Agenda Items Only

Mayor Mattox asked if anyone would like to speak on anything listed on the agenda.

No one came forward.

5. Introductions and Special Presentations

6. Items for Discussion

- a. Virginia Commission on the Arts Grant (AOT/Main Street)

Ms. Emelyn Gwynn, Main Street Coordinator, addressed Council and advised Altavista On Track is pursuing a Virginia Commission for The Arts Local Government Challenge Grant. The grants are designed to encourage local governments to support the arts and will match up to \$5,000 in tax monies. The grant will go towards art organizations for art activity in this locality. She noted a couple of art focused groups have been brought together (Altavista Area YMCA Arts Council, the Town and Altavista on Track's Design Committee) to coordinate a functioning organization that can create a program for arts in the town. Ms. Gwynn noted they are looking at street art consisting of murals and sculptures being placed in areas exposed to the general public. This grant would create a catalysis for the possibility of creating a revolving program to support the arts in the town. She

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 23, 2016

advised a couple of buildings have been identified. Ms. Gwynn advised the application is due April 1, 2016 and sought approval from Council to move forward with the grant application.

Mr. George verified Altavista on Track is hoping to get a \$5,000 grant and if so, the local government would match the funds and hopefully another entity would also provide funding.

Mrs. Dalton asked if the town would be responsible for the full amount.

Mr. Coggsdale stated the project requires it to be local tax monies.

Mrs. Dalton stated athletics and children's programs are something that is done really well in the town and felt the cultural part and the arts could be done better.

It was consensus of Council to allow Altavista On Track to pursue the Virginia Commission for The Arts Local Government Challenge Grant.

### b. Utility Update

Mr. Garrett addressed Council to give a report on the Water Plant for the past six to eight months. He noted during the events with the Water Plant the water quality has been closely monitored and has never been compromised; Water Plant operators, Public Works, and Virginia Department of Health have been working closely on this matter. He referred back to July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, the water hammer issues, and advised water piping in the clear well has been replaced, gate valves and an emergency water connection to the Town of Hurt have been installed, two of the 16" Ross valves were repaired that were damaged with the water hammer issue, replaced VFDs to 10 mixers that mixes the chemicals with the water in the basins. He advised mixer motors were replaced in the process along with the finish water meter that was also damaged. Mr. Garrett advised the first phase of the SCADA system is now in place. A half million and a one million per day water pumps have been purchased; these have not been installed because of the need for electrical upgrades. Mr. Garrett noted a backwash pump has been purchased not because of the water issue at the Water Plant but as a backup to the pump that is not working.; two altitude valves have been replaced in two of the water tanks that were bad. A pressure relief valve was replaced at the Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Higginbotham questioned the intake pumps being bad.

Mr. Garrett responded this was before the July 22<sup>nd</sup> issue, the Staunton River raw intake pumps were bad due to lack of maintenance.

Mr. Higginbotham noted valves don't work when they are not exercised.

Mrs. Dalton asked if checking the valves were on a schedule.

Mr. Garrett advised this is being implemented; they are in the process of logging all of the valves and having staff exercise them. He advised the total amount charged to repairs is \$426,364. The claim submitted to VML is \$311,000 noting engineering services of \$34,000 is not included in this amount.

Mr. Higginbotham asked how long VML has had the claim.

Mrs. Shelton advised VML was made aware the day the water issue occurred. We have been submitting documentation continuously with the final being submitted in January 2016. There was a piece that VML was waiting on from the engineers that was submitted late February.

Mr. Garrett advised VML covered 100% of the water purchased from Campbell County Utilities Service Authority. Mr. Garrett stated after the July 22<sup>nd</sup> event, there have been over 10 water main breaks totaling over \$25,000 in repairs. Mr. Garrett

COUNCIL WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 23, 2016

felt this was due to the age and bedding of the water pipes and stress put on the system with the July 22<sup>nd</sup> water event.

Mr. Higginbotham asked if this would be included in the insurance claim.

Mr. Garrett responded he wasn't sure he could confirm the water main breaks were due to the water event on July 22.

Mrs. Dalton asked what was the normal on water breaks.

Mr. Garrett stated Bedford Avenue before the lines were replaced there were leaks often. The temperature change is a factor.

Mrs. Dalton suggested Mr. Garrett look at the breaks and see if any of the 10 have specific idiosyncrasies that are different from what is usually seen and engage VML in a conversation about this.

Mr. Garrett mentioned there have been lengthy conversations about what is going on, what could be going on, and what needs to be done in the future and suggested additional resources or help may need to be brought in to pinpoint what is going on.

Mrs. Brumfield advised her brother works with Water Treatment Plants and asked Mr. Garrett if he would be interested in talking to him in regards to chemicals that coat the pipes to protect from corrosion.

Mr. Higginbotham asked if there was a meter at McMinnis Springs.

Mr. Garrett stated there is a meter that records what is put out but there are 3 ½ miles of line; they don't know what is being put out at the tank.

Mr. Higginbotham asked if it would make sense to put a meter at the tank.

Mr. Garrett stated this is the plan and Health Department has been contacted for approval as he would like to put a check valve on the Bedford tank where water is pumped into the distribution system. He advised there are a lot of things going on to protect and maintain the new system. He advised staff has a vision of where the system needs to be; he stated the system is working fine but not like it should operate. They are not utilizing water storage in tanks because of pressure reducing valves that are not located in the proper places.

Mrs. Dalton noted she, Mr. Law and the Town Manager are presently reviewing the Engineering bids for consideration and this selection should be soon. Council needs to stay on top of the comprehensive infrastructures.

Mr. Garrett advised of the items that need to be addressed including the SCADA check which would be in a 5-year plan. He stated a high priority is the electrical situation at the Water Plant and added staff is looking at using the third floor of the Water Plant for the electrical room.

Mrs. Dalton recalled the reason for moving the electrical workings out of the atmosphere of water dampness and questioned that the third floor would do this.

Mr. Garrett stated the third floor is basically a storage area and this plan is something the engineers need to work on because of three pumps needing to be put into place. He mentioned the hydraulic model was also very important.

Mr. Higginbotham asked if the hydraulic model would be obtained from W&W Associates because it had already been paid for.

Mr. Garrett noted the Bedford pump station needs to be reworked. It was missed in the waterline project. Lola pump station needs to be re-evaluated as the pumps are oversized.

COUNCIL WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Mr. Higginbotham asked if these pumps could be used elsewhere.

Mr. Garrett advised the vision is to use these pumps at the Bedford location and smaller pumps at Lola.

Mr. Higginbotham asked for the schedule of painting the water tanks and if the Dearing Ford tank was being used.

Mr. Garrett advised it would be in the spring and Campbell County presently has 19 feet of water in the Dearing Ford tank which provides pressure for Timken. He noted there are 8 PRV valves and more are needed; some need to be relocated. The three tanks should float off of each other. There should be enough stored water that operation of the water plant should not occur at night.

Mr. Higginbotham questioned the elevation of all four tanks.

Mr. Garrett responded Bedford and Clarion are at the same elevation. Dearing Ford is at the highest elevation. He added all the things mentioned are things that need to happen because of the age of the system.

Mayor Mattox asked how long it would take to get a water model.

Mr. Garrett responded one to two months once a firm is on board; conditions need to be validated and tests ran.

Mr. Garrett stated he takes pride in what he is doing, wants the best and has high standards and looking at what the Town supplies water to, he would like to have the same at the water plant. He felt Abbott Laboratories was top notch and the town as their water supplier should be top notch.

Mr. Coggsdale advised Mr. Tom Fore who is teaching a class in the Town asked how many people are being serviced with water by the Town of Altavista. Mr. Fore advised the answer would be millions because of what is produced by Abbott Laboratories.

Mayor Mattox thanked Mr. Garrett for the great work and his philosophy of excellence.

Mrs. Dalton asked if we could also say with our crippled system Abbott Laboratories has never gone without water or interruption in service.

Mr. Garrett responded there has been some scary moments but they have not gone without water.

Mrs. Brumfield noted the Dialysis Center uses this water too.

Mrs. Dalton left the meeting at 5:56 p.m. and returned at 5:58 p.m.

Mrs. Brumfield left the meeting at 5:56 p.m. and returned at 5:59 p.m.

c. PCB Update

Mr. Coggsdale advised he wanted to recapture where Council was with the PCBs. At this time Council is waiting on a letter from the DEQ per the November 2015 meeting in which DEQ advised they would be sending information in 90 days as to the result of the informal fact finding hearing.

Mr. Higginbotham stated he wanted to have a frank discussion tonight; DEQ will either say the Town is in the VRP or not.

## COUNCIL WORK SESSION FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Mr. Coggsdale said through the process it has been realized that maybe that is not the big issue as thought to be in the past. He noted Council is working with three high level organizations that bring a lot of expertise to the issue.

Mr. Higginbotham stated it concerned him that Council is waiting for the DEQ to tell them something and it really isn't going to make any difference. He stated Council made presentations to the DEQ and was not sure if Council is totally following through on it.

Mr. Coggsdale advised Dr. Sowers and Dr. Lowman plan to present some reports by summer that show progress may or may not be occurring.

Mrs. Brumfield questioned if SediMite showed more potential in reducing the PCBs then the other methods.

Mr. Higginbotham stated during the mixing process the reduction has been 30 to 40 percent in the first month then up to 65 percent. He noted we don't know what the cost is for this testing; the last SediMite was donated.

Mr. Coggsdale stated he would start a dialogue with Dr. Sowers on the potential cost to use the SediMite if in June he comes back with positive results.

Mrs. Dalton felt data needs to drive the next conversation.

Mr. Higginbotham referred to the decision not to build a berm between Plots D & E, he felt what Dr. Lowman had said has been misinterpreted, his analysis is based on averages not individual samples and 50 parts per million is every sample.

Mrs. Dalton wasn't sure that Council ever got an answer to the question and asked Mr. Higginbotham where this answer came from.

Mr. Higginbotham stated Dr. Lowman told him this; that Council could not say on average, DEQ is going to want every sample. He noted this would not mean to sample every square inch.

Mrs. Brumfield asked how many samples are there.

Mr. Coggsdale said there was approximately 30 samples.

Mrs. Dalton said she didn't know what points were trying to be settled but conceptually there are some things going on. Council knows conceptually that the PCBs are degrading by the natural attenuation process which is the microbes. She stated the fact is there are three experiments going on and the PCBs are being pulled down which has the potential of showing evidence that we can hurry the process.

Mayor Mattox stated something that bothered him was DEQ thought the pond was leaking into the river and they had no data to support this. The EPA and the DEQ are now saying this pond is not a high priority. Mayor Mattox was in agreement with Mrs. Dalton to wait and see.

Mr. Higginbotham stated it bothers him that when Dr. Schnoor came to Danville and then sent Mr. Coggsdale some emails wanting nine 15 x15 grids to plant in and Council then voted on a Plan B which forces Dr. Schnoor to take samples and grow plants at University of Iowa instead of growing them in the field. He suggested coming to a compromise and find an area with high concentration; he felt with a long reach track hoe the Public Works employee would be safe. He asked that an area be determined so not to lose the growing season.

Mayor Mattox stated a vote has been taken and unless one of the Council members, that voted in the majority of the previous motion, wants to make a motion, Council needs to move on. He noted the majority of Council agrees to wait and see what happens.

d. Reserve a Weekend Truck Policy

Mr. Coggsdale presented Council with a draft Weekend Truck Policy noting staff is requesting some items not be allowed on the load to include batteries and tires. The landfill charges for the disposal of tires and requires them to be separated from the load.

After some discussion Council agreed to amend the Policy to not allow batteries on the load and to limit the number of tires to four per load and that they be loaded last.

A motion was made by Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mrs. Brumfield, to amend the Weekend Truck Policy not allowing batteries on the load and to limit the number of tires to four per load and that these four tires be loaded last.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Micki Brumfield	Yes
	Mrs. Beverly Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

7. Items Scheduled for the Regular Meeting Agenda

8. Public Comments

Mr. Dick McKeel, 303 Myrtle Lane, addressed Council stating he is extremely encouraged with the presentation in regards to the water system noting there is not one thing more important to the citizens of Altavista than the water that is put into their house. Mr. McKeel noted he has done some calling to out of town sources and told Council someone is needed over the Water Plant with at least a Class 2 license.

9. Adjournment

Mayor Mattox adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

---

Michael E. Mattox, Mayor

---

J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Clerk